

THE PRINCIPAL  
A C T S  
OF THE  
General Assembly  
OF THE  
CHURCH  
OF  
SCOTLAND.

Convéned at EDINBURGH, the 20th Day of May 1784.

*Collected and extracted from the Records by the Clerks thereof.*



EDINBURGH:

Printed by JAMES DICKSON, Printer to the Church  
of Scotland.

M,DCC,LXXXIV.

THE  
CHURCH  
OF ST. ANDREW

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THE PRINCIPAL  
A C T S  
OF THE  
General Assembly  
OF THE  
C H U R C H  
OF  
S C O T L A N D.

Begun at *Edinburgh*, the 20th Day of *May* 1784, and  
concluded the 31st *May* said year.

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I.

The King's Commission to DAVID Earl  
of LEVEN produced, and ordered to  
be recorded.

*Edinburgh, May 20. 1784.*

THE General Assembly of this National Church  
being convened and constituted, there was pro-  
duced to them, by the Right Honourable DA-  
VID Earl of LEVEN, the King's Commission,  
sealed with the Seal appointed by the Treaty of Union  
to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in place of the Great  
Seal

Seal of Scotland, making and constituting him his Majesty's High Commissioner and Representative in this Assembly; which Commission was publicly read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded in the Books of Assembly. The tenor whereof follows:

**G**EORGIUS, Dei gratia, Magnæ Britannia, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defensor: Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præsentēs literæ nostræ pervenerint, Salutem. Quandoquidem nos considerantes, quod generalis ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventus in diem vigesimum Maii proximi convenire ordinatus fuit; nosque etiam abunde cupidi, quin etiam necessarium esse judicantes in commodum dictæ ecclesiæ, ut idem generalis ecclesiæ conventus die statuto debite observetur, atque rebus magni momenti nos alio vocantibus, dicto conventui personaliter interesse nequimus; nosque abunde satisfacti de fidelitate et sufficientia fidelissimi et dilectissimi nostri consanguinei, Davidis Comitis de Leven, quod ad summum munus supremi nostri Commissionarii ad dictum generalem conventum rite exercendum et obeundum usquequaque sit instructus: Noveritis igitur, nos nominasse, constituisse, et ordinasse, sicuti tenore præsentium, nominamus, constituimus, et ordinamus, memoratum, fidelissimum et prædilectissimum nostrum consanguineum Davidem Comitem de Leven, supremum nostrum Commissionarium dicto generali ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventui, dando et concedendo illi plenam nostram potestatem, commissionem, et warrantum, sacram nostram personam et auctoritatem regalem representandi, nec non presentiam nostram supplendi, et locum nostrum in dicto subsequente generali conventu, tanquam Commissionario nostro ad hunc effectum specialiter constituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium et munus Commissionarii pro generali ecclesiæ conventu peragendi, tam plene adeoque libere in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius in eo summo munere fecerat, seu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, vel ac si nos ipsi personaliter præsentēs facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia et singula quæ dictus David Comes de Leven in hac nostra commissione prosequenda legitime faciet, seu fieri ordinabit, nos firmiter approbamus, et habituri sumus. Omnibus et singulis insuper dictæ ecclesiæ pastoribus, et presbyteris cæterisque quibuscunque, intra illam partem Magnæ Britannia Scotiam vocatam, subditis nostris, cujuscunque gradus seu qualitatis, ut dictum Davidem Comitem de Leven, tanquam supremum nostrum Commissionarium, quoad effectum et modum supra mentionatum, revereantur, agnoscant, et dicto ipsius audientes se præbeant, stricte præcipimus et imperamus: Atque hanc nostram commissionem a dicto vigesimo die Maii proximi incipere, et deinceps durante subsequente sessione dicti generalis conventus in vigore continuare,



*continuatione, declaramus, vel usque dum a nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur. In cujus rei testimonium, praesentibus, Sigillum nostrum per Unionis tractatum custodiend. et in Scotia, vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejusdem utend. ordinat. appendi mandavimus; apud aulam nostram apud St James's, decimo quinto die mensis Aprilis, anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo et octogesimo-quarto, regnique nostri anno vigesimo-quarto. Per signaturam manu S. D. N. regis superscript.*

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## II.

The KING's most gracious Letter to the  
General Assembly, presented to them  
by his Majesty's Commissioner.

GEORGE R.

**R**IGHT REVEREND and well-beloved, We greet you well. It is with great satisfaction We now repeat the assurance of Our favourable disposition towards the Church of Scotland, as your constant and zealous endeavours hitherto, for the promotion of true Religion and Virtue, have met with Our Gracious Approbation. And having the most convincing proofs of your loyalty and affection to Our Person and Government, We cannot now refrain from declaring Our firm resolution to support the Church of Scotland, in all its Rights and Privileges as by Law established.

We have no doubt that the same laudable examples of Religion and Virtue will be shewn at the present meeting, and that you will be diligent in instilling into the minds of those committed to your charge, a devout reverence towards Almighty God, and an humble gratitude to His Divine Providence for His innumerable Mercies, and that you will be steady, and persevere in the suppression of impiety and immorality. In objects so essential to the general peace and happiness of society, you may be assured of Our readiness to contribute every possible assistance.

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We have again appointed Our Right Trusty and Right Well-beloved Cousin, David Earl of Leven, to represent Our Royal Person in this Assembly, being well satisfied of his loyalty, integrity and zeal for Our service, and of his particular affection for the Church of Scotland.

In full confidence that charity, brotherly love and unanimity, will prevail in all your proceedings in the business before you, and that you will bring the present Meeting to a happy conclusion, We bid you heartily farewell.

Given at Our Court at St James's, the 3d day of May 1784, in the twenty-fourth year of Our Reign.

By his Majesty's Command,

S Y D N E Y.

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### III.

## The General Assembly's Answer to the King's most gracious Letter.

*May it please your Majesty,*

**T**HE letter with which your Majesty hath honoured this meeting of the National Assembly of the Church of Scotland, was received with the respect and gratitude due to so distinguished a mark of Royal Favour.

Your Majesty's gracious approbation of the conduct of former Assemblies, is a strong incitement to us to continue those zealous endeavours for the promotion of true Religion and Virtue, which have procured to them this honourable testimony. We have entire confidence in your Majesty's favourable disposition towards the Church of Scotland: And we receive every repeated declaration



declaration of your firm resolution to support our Church in all its Rights and Privileges, as by Law established, as a pleasing reward of our loyalty and affection to your Majesty's Person and Government.

It shall be our constant study, in our conduct, to hold forth to those who are committed to our charge, examples of Religion and Virtue, to instil into their minds a devout reverence towards Almighty God, and an humble gratitude to His Divine Providence for His innumerable Mercies, and to exert all our influence in the suppression of impiety and immorality. We rejoice that we are the subjects of a Prince who is a pattern of piety and virtue to his people, who, as a nursing Father of the Church, calls its Ministers, by his authority, to the faithful discharge of the duties of their sacred function, and from whom they are assured of receiving every possible assistance, in promoting those objects which are most essential for the general peace and happiness of society.

We beg leave to return our grateful acknowledgements to your Majesty, for your attention to the propagation of the principles of the reformed Religion in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. Your Majesty's Royal Donation, for that pious and useful end, shall be applied with the most prudent care.

The inviolable and warm attachment, which the Ancestors of the Earl of Leven shewed to the civil and religious liberties of their country, his own exemplary regard to Religion, his affection to the Church of Scotland, and the many amiable virtues by which his character is distinguished, render your Majesty's nomination of that Noble Lord, to represent your Royal Person, a most acceptable mark of your attention to this Assembly.

We shall endeavour to maintain in all our proceedings, that charity, brotherly love, and unanimity, which your Majesty has been pleased to recommend, and without which, we are sensible that the decisions of an Ecclesiastical Assembly cannot fully produce the good effects intended.

That Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, may protect your Person, and establish your Throne in righteousness: That he may pour down his best blessings upon our gracious Queen, his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and all the Royal Family; and that, after reigning long with wisdom and felicity upon earth,  
you

you may enter into those happy Regions, where pious  
and virtuous Princes shall receive an unfading crown,  
are the earnest prayers of,

May it please your Majesty,  
Your Majesty's most faithful,  
Most obedient,

And most loyal subjects,  
The Ministers and Elders met in this National  
Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,  
In our presence,  
And at our appointment, by

JOHN DRYSDALE, *Moderator.*

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#### IV.

### The General Assembly's Address to his Majesty.

*May it please your Majesty,*

**W**E your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects,  
the Ministers and Elders met together in the Ge-  
neral Assembly of the Church of Scotland, beg leave,  
with all humility and respect, to approach your Ma-  
jesty's Throne, and, with that affection which we owe  
to our Gracious Sovereign, to assure your Majesty of our  
sincere and inviolable attachment to your Royal Person,  
Family and Government.

Sensible of the many inestimable blessings, which these  
Kingdoms, and this Church in particular, derive from the  
beneficent reign of a Prince, who is so justly esteemed  
as the affectionate Father of his people, we feel our-  
selves deeply interested in every event which is con-  
ducive to the prosperity and happiness of your Majesty's  
Family. While we rejoice in such events as contri-  
buting



buting to your Majesty's domestic felicity, we are at the same time convinced that they afford additional security to those Privileges, both sacred and civil, which this Nation have had the happiness to enjoy, under the auspicious government of your Majesty, and of your illustrious Ancestors.

Animated by these sentiments, we do, with the most cordial satisfaction, and with the most devout gratitude to Almighty God, the sovereign Disposer of all events, congratulate your Majesty, that, since the last meeting of the General Assembly, God, in his kind Providence, hath been pleased to add to your Majesty's Family, by the birth of another Princess, and to gratify the ardent wishes of all your Majesty's loyal Subjects, by the happy recovery of your Royal Consort, our most Gracious Queen, from her late indisposition.

That God may be graciously pleased to preserve your Majesty's most valuable life for a blessing to your kingdom and people: That he may take under his merciful protection our most Gracious Queen, his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and all your Royal Family: That the descendents of your Majesty's illustrious House, may sit on the British Throne, and be eminent Protectors of the liberties of all your Majesty's dominions to the latest posterity; and that your Majesty, after a long, a glorious, and a happy Reign, over a free and faithful people, may at last, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord, be rewarded with a crown of immortal glory in the Kingdom of Heaven, are, and ever shall be, the most fervent prayers of,

May it please your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful,

Most obedient,

And most loyal Subjects,

The Ministers and Elders met in this National  
Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,

In our presence,

And at our appointment, by

JOHN DRYSDALE, *Moderator.*

## V.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for the Reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and for managing his Majesty's Royal Bounty for that end.

THE General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr John Drysdale, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, their Moderator, all the ministers who are members of the Presbytery of Edinburgh, Mr Francis Forbes at Grange, Mr George Gordon at Mortlich, Mr James Grant at Inveraven, Mr John Grant at Boharm, Mr Lewis Grant at Cromdale, Mr John Grant at Kinguisie, Mr William Gordon at Urquhart, Mr John Reid at Duffus, Mr Alexander Watt at Forres, Mr James Gillan at Kinloss, Mr Patrick Dunbar at Nairn, Mr Pryse Campbell at Arderfier, Mr Alexander Frazer at Kirkhill, Mr William Smith at Pettie, Dr Patrick Grant at Urray, Mr Daniel Rose at Dingwall, Mr Alexander Frazer at Kilmaly, Mr James Grant at Urquhart, Mr Donald M'Queen at Kilmuir, Mr Martin M'Pherson at Slate, Mr Alexander Mackay at Barvas, Mr Hugh Monro at Wig, Mr Allan M'Queen at North Uist, Mr John M'Leod at Harris, Mr John M'Queen at Applecross, Mr Colin M'Iver at Glenelg, Mr William Keith at Kildonan, Mr William Gun at Golfpie, Mr Alexander Nicolson at Thurso, Mr John Morison at Canisby, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, Dr Henry Grieve at Dalkeith, Mr Bryce Johnston at Hollywood, Mr John Dickie at Langholm, Mr John Scott at Twineholm, Mr Archibald M'Lea at Rothfay, Mr Charles Stewart at Strachur, Mr Robert Thomson at Kilean, Mr Alexander Hoffack at Jura and Colonsa, Mr John Smith at Campbelton, Mr Hugh Campbell at Kilmartin, Mr Paul Frazer at Craignish, Mr Ludovick Grant at Ardhatton, Mr Patrick Campbell at Kilniver, Mr Donald Skinner at Ardnamurchan, Mr Archibald M'Coll at Tirrie,



rie, Mr Thomas Bisset at Logierait, Mr Alexander Duff at Tibbermuir, Mr David Dickson at Bothkennar, Mr John Wright at Trinitygask, Mr Robert Stirling at Port, Mr Alexander Daling at Cliesh, Mr James Reid at Kinglassie, Mr George Campbell at Cupar, Dr Gerard at Aberdeen, Mr Spence Oliphant at Largo, Professor George Hill, Dr James Playfair at Meigle, Mr John Webster at Inverarity, Mr John Gibson at Mains, Mr Alexander Mackie at Arbroath, Mr Charles Nisbet at Montrose, Mr David Forbes at Laurencekirk, Dr Duncan Shaw at Aberdeen, Mr John Ramsay at Strachan, Mr Robert Lumsden at Kildrummy, Mr John Rose at Udney, Mr Robert Gauld at Kilsalmond, Mr James Johnston at Crimond, Mr William Moir at Fyvie, Mr Andrew Skene at Banff, Dr Walter Anderson at Churnside, Mr Robert Douglas at Gallashiels, Mr Donaldson at Wamphry, Mr Archibald Bonar at Glasgow, Mr Finlay at Paisley, Ministers; the Honourable Mr Baron Gordon, Thomas Hogg, Esq; advocate, Dr Gregory Grant, Edinburgh, Mr Thomas Gordon, clerk to the Signet, Mr Ludovick Grant, *junior*, writer in Edinburgh, Mr John Lothian merchant, Edinburgh, Bailie William Galloway merchant, Edinburgh, Bailie John Walker merchant in Edinburgh, Donald Smith treasurer of the city of Edinburgh, Mr Andrew Crossbie advocate, Mr William Robertson procurator for the Church, Mr Isaac Grant writer to the Signet, Bannatyne William M'Leod, Esq; advocate, Bailie Daniel Miller, Canongate, Mr James Horn writer to the Signet, Mr Robert Cullen advocate, Mr Andrew M'Cara merchant, Edinburgh, Professor Andrew Dalziel, the Honourable Henry Erskine, Archibald M'Dowal Esq; Dean of Guild, Mr Archibald Mercer merchant, Mr John Gloag merchant, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Convener William Jamieson, Professor John Hill, the Right Honourable Lord Chief Baron, the Right Honourable Lord President, the Right Honourable Henry Dundas, Mr Solicitor-General, Mark Pringle Esq; advocate, Mr Richard Tod merchant, Leith, Mr Walter Scott merchant, Edinburgh, Alexander Ferguson Esq; advocate, Alexander Gordon Esq; of Culvenan, advocate, Mr James Dickson bookseller, Edinburgh, Mr John Haddoway merchant, Leith, Alexander Wight Esq; advocate, James Colquhoun younger of Luss, Esq; the Right Honourable Lord Henderland, Mr Archibald Fletcher writer to the Signet, Sir John Belfches Baronet, Bailie James Gentle, Dr John Steedman physician, Edinburgh, Dr Andrew

drew Duncan physician, Mr Richard Lake writer to the Signet, Mr Thomas Duncan writer, Edinburgh, Alexander Burnet, Esq; advocate, Mr William Leslie clerk to the Signet, Mr John Taylor clerk to the Signet, Mr Alexander Forbes writer, Mr John Robertson writer, Mr John Russell *junior*, writer, Mr George Robinson writer, Walter Dunbar, Esq; Mr William M'Donald writer, John Clerk of Elden, Esq; Ruling Elders, to be a Committee of this Assembly, for the reformation of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true religion, suppressing Popery and profaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty, for these ends, according to, and in terms of his Majesty's grant to this Assembly. In prosecution of which purposes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechists, to go to such places as they shall find, upon due information, to be the most proper, according to his Majesty's design expressed in his warrant; and, in so doing, that they have particular regard to such parishes in South Uist, Small Isles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other parishes of the Synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the Committee shall find, by reason of the vast extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumstances, to be in the greatest distress: And they shall take care, that the persons they employ be certified, and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for these respective offices, of good abilities for the same, of a pious life and conversation, prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majesty, and of competent skill in the principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popish controversies: Such Preachers and Catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under the inspection of the Presbyteries of the bounds to which they are sent, who are to take care that the orders of the Committee be duly observed by them. And the Preachers are also appointed to catechise, and both they and the Catechists to instruct the people from house to house, and to visit the sick; and, in all their labour, among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Christian Protestant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the Committee are empowered to give them such instructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they shall judge meet; which instructions the Preachers and Catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said Committee, to have a particular



particular regard in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approved by frequent Assemblies: And to take care that Presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Assembly ordains the several Presbyteries to insert in their registers, the Committee's appointments of the designations, salaries, and stations of the several missionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they shall write about the said missionaries, and in giving of certificates to them; and to direct all their letters, concerning missionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which letters shall be signed, at the appointment of the Presbytery, by the Moderator or Clerk thereof: And the Assembly does discharge any payment to be made of the salaries of the missionaries, except upon receipts from the missionaries themselves, and upon certificates from the Presbyteries, bearing, That they have served for the time mentioned in the receipts: And that every Catechist, who receives a salary from the Royal Bounty, on condition that the parishioners or gentlemen of the district shall pay a certain sum in aid of such salary, shall insert, in the body of his receipt to the cashier, a declaration that he has received the particular sum specified; and that the attestation of the Presbytery shall in like manner bear, that the Catechist has received the stipulated sum which the Committee make the condition of his appointment; it being understood by this resolution, that the several stations, with regard to which such conditions were originally made by the Committee, when no such declaration of the Catechist, or attestation of the Presbytery, as is now proposed, is received by the cashier, shall be afterwards suppressed by the Committee, though the Catechist shall, notwithstanding, receive the salary for the time he is certified to have performed his duty. That a journal of the itinerant's labours in the ministry, of the mission committed to him, be written on the back of the Presbytery's certificate, and signed by him, as the ground on which the Presbytery have granted him said certificate. The General Assembly do also empower the said Committee to apply, for the purposes above mentioned, what may remain of the last year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by reason of any of the missionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and that they

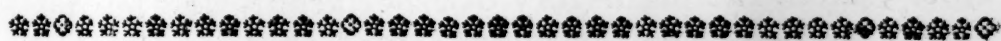
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are to keep a register of their proceedings, and likewise distinct books of accounts, how the foresaid money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned who please to inspect the same. Of the persons above named as members of this Committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be ministers. But it is hereby appointed, That at the quarterly meeting of the Committee, in which the scheme or establishment of missionaries for the ensuing year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the quorum, whereof nine shall be ministers; and the said Committee are appointed to have their general meetings at Edinburgh, the first lawful day after the adjournment of each of the four stated diets of the Commission of the General Assembly, within the Assembly ayle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day shall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting shall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the said hour; with power to the said Committee to adjourn themselves to such times and places as they shall find most needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and to take their advice and assistance; and also to correspond with the Synods and Presbyteries concerned. They are likewise instructed and empowered, as they shall see cause, to apply to the Government, or any Magistrate, for assistance and support in carrying on the design of the commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do appoint Mr William Robertson advocate, Procurator for the Church, and Receiver of the foresaid Royal Bounty, to pay out the same as he shall be directed and ordered by the foresaid Committee, and according to their rules. And the said Committee are appointed to examine the accompts of the distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no person once employed and insert in the scheme, shall be struck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at least fourteen, whereof nine to be ministers; and in case any complaint shall be made against any of them on the scheme, it shall not be determined the first ordinary meeting that the same is offered, but it shall lie on the table till another meeting; and in the mean



mean time, the person complained of, and the Presbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such complaint, and those concerned be required to send to the said Committee a just account of the matter against the next meeting. And it is further appointed, That after the yearly scheme of missionaries on the Royal Bounty is settled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the Presbyteries concerned, such Presbyteries shall send up to the said Committee their answer to these letters, at farthest with their Commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner; and that the Committee, at their first meeting after the General Assembly, shall endeavour to complete the next year's scheme themselves; and if they cannot complete it, they shall name a Subcommittee of their number for that purpose, who are to lay their draught thereof before a subsequent meeting, which is appointed to meet as soon after the rising of the Assembly as possible. And empowered the Committee, at their first meeting, to reject any petition for a new station, in case they shall find sufficient objections against it; and that the said Committee, in making up the scheme of missionaries, &c. do not exceed the sum in the grant.



## VI.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders, for discussing affairs referred to them.

THE General Assembly, considering there are some affairs which they cannot overtake, do hereby nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr John Drysdale, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, their Moderator; from the presbytery of Strathbogie, Mr Francis Forbes at Grange, Mr George Gordon at Mortlich, ministers, the Right Honourable Mr Baron Gordon, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Aberlour, Mr James Grant at Inveraven, Mr John Grant at Boharm, ministers, Thomas Hogg, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Abernethy, Mr Lewis Grant at Cromdale, Mr John Anderson

Anderfon at Kinguifie, ministers, Dr Gregory Grant physician in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Elgin, Mr William Gordon at Urquhart, Mr John Reid at Duffus, ministers, Mr Thomas Gordon clerk to the signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Forres, Mr Alexander Watt at Forres, Mr James Gillan at Kinloss, ministers, Walter Dunbar, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Forres, Mr Ludovick Grant, *junior*, writer in Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Nairn, Mr Patrick Dunbar at Nairn, Mr Pryse Campbell at Arderfier, ministers, Mr John Lothian merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Inverness, Mr Alexander Frazer at Kirkhill, Mr William Smith at Pettie, ministers, Bailie William Galloway merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Inverness, Alexander Baillie of Dockfour, Esq; from the presbytery of Chanonry, Mr Robert Monro at Kilmuir Wester, Mr Alexander Wood at Rosemarkie, ministers, Bailie John Walker merchant in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Tain, Mr George Douglas at Tain, Mr John Urquhart at Fern, ministers, the Right Honourable Lord Ankerville, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dingwall, Dr Patrick Grant at Urray, Mr Daniel Rose at Dingwall, ministers, Donald Smith, Esq; treasurer of the city of Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Abertarph, Mr Alexander Frazer at Kilmaly, Mr James Grant at Urquhart, ministers, James Frazer, Esq; of Gortoleg, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Sky, Mr Donald M'Queen at Kilmuir, Mr Martin M'Pherson at Slate, ministers, Mr Andrew Crosbie, advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lewis, Mr Alexander Mackay at Barvas, Mr Hugh Monro at Wig, ministers, Mr William Robertson Procurator for the Church, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Uist, Mr Allan M'Queen at North Uist, Mr John M'Leod at Harris, ministers, Alexander M'Leod, Esq; of Harris, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lochcarron, Mr John M'Queen at Applecrofs, Mr Colin M'Iver at Glenelg, ministers, Bannatyne William M'Leod, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dornock, Mr William Keith at Kildonan, Mr William Gun at Golspie, ministers, Dr Hugh M'Leod, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Caithness, Mr Alexander Nicolson at Thurso, Mr John Morison at Canisby, ministers, Bailie Daniel Miller, Canongate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Wick, Mr James Horn writer to the Signet;



net ; from the presbytery of Kirkwall, Mr James Alifon at Holm, Mr George Barry at Kirkwall, ministers, Mr Robert Cullen, advocate, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Cairnston, Mr Francis Liddell at Orphir, Mr John Falconer at Stromness, ministers, Mr Andrew M'Cara, merchant, Edinburgh, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of North Isles, Mr William Clouston at Cross, Burness, Mr John Anderson at Stronsa and Ada, ministers, William Wemyss, Esq; writer to the signet ; from the presbytery of Zetland, Mr William Jack at Northmaving, Mr David M'Robert at Nesting, ministers, Professor Andrew Dalzel, Edinburgh, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Edinburgh, Mr Henry Lundie, Dr Robert Henry, Edinburgh, Mr John Chiesly at Corstorphin, Dr John M'Farlane, Canongate, Dr Andrew Hunter, Edinburgh, ministers, the Honourable Henry Erskine, advocate, Dean of Guild M'Dowall, Mr Archibald Mercer, merchant, ruling elders ; from the city of Edinburgh, the Right Honourable John Grieve, present Lord Provost, Convener William Jamieson ; from the University of Edinburgh, Professor John Hill ; from the presbytery of Linlithgow, Mr Charles Wilkie at Ecclesmachan, Mr James Paton at Torphichen, Mr John Scotland at Linlithgow, Mr James Dobie at Mid-Calder, ministers, Sir William Augustus Cunningham, Mr John Gloag, merchant, Edinburgh, ruling elders ; from the burgh of Linlithgow, Provost Robert Clark ; from the burgh of Queensferry, Captain James Taylor in Queensferry ; from the presbytery of Biggar, Mr William Howe at Skerling, Mr James Finlayson at Symington, Mr William Lockhart at Coulter, ministers, Mr John Miller in Diefenre, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Peebles, Mr Thomas Musket at Tweedsmuir, Dr James Moffat at Newlands, ministers, the Right Honourable Lord Chief Baron, ruling elder ; from the burgh of Peebles, Andrew Hamilton of Spittlehaugh, Esq; from the presbytery of Dalkeith, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Inveresk, Dr Henry Grieve at Dalkeith, Mr John Paton at Lathwade, ministers, the Right Honourable Lord President, ruling elder ; from the burgh of Haddington, Provost Patrick M'Clarran ; from the burgh of North Berwick, Bailie William Swinton ; from the presbytery of Dunbar, Mr John Clunie at Whitekirk, Mr John Lundie at Old Hamstocks, ministers, Robert Hunter of Thurston, Esq; ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Dunfermline, Mr Robert Douglas at Buncle, Mr Adam Murray at Eccles, ministers, Matthew Sandilands of Couston, Esq;

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ruling elder; from the presbytery of Churnside, Dr Walter Anderson at Churnside, Mr James Bell at Coldstream, ministers, John Stewart, Esq; younger, of Allanbank, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Kelso, Mr Robert Turnbull at Sprouston, Mr Andrew Bell at Roxburgh, ministers, the Right Honourable Henry Dundas, ruling elder; from the Presbytery of Jedburgh, Mr John Riccalton at Hopekirk, Mr James Richardson at Oxnam, Mr William Burn at Minto, ministers, Robert Dundas, Esq; his Majesty's Solicitor-General, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lauder, Mr James Ford at Lauder, Mr William Gullan at Legerwood, ministers, the Right Honourable the Earl of Lauderdale, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Selkirk, Mr Robert Douglas at Galashiells, Mr Thomas Sharp at Ettrick, ministers, Mark Pringle, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Selkirk, Mr Richard Tod, merchant in Leith; from the presbytery of Annan, Mr James Smail at Dornock, Mr William Hardy-Moncrieff at Annan, ministers, Sir William Maxwell of Springkell, Baronet, ruling elder; from the burgh of Annan, Mr Walter Scott, merchant, Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Langholm, Mr John Dickie at Langholm, Mr Richard Scott at Ewes, ministers, Gideon Rutherford of Greenpark, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Lochmaben, Mr Joseph Ferguson at Tundergarth, Mr David Donaldson at Wamphry, Mr Thomas Henderson at Drysdale, ministers, Mr John Coupland of Minygape, ruling elder; from the burgh of Lochmaben, Alexander Ferguson, Esq; of Craigdarroch; from the presbytery of Penpont, Mr Andrew Yorftoun at Closeburn, Mr John Robertson at Kirkconnel, ministers, Mr William Hamilton in Sanquhar, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dumfries, Mr Bryce Johnston at Hollywood, Mr William Burnside at Dumfries, Mr Joseph Kirkpatrick at Dunscore, ministers, Alexander Gordon of Culvennan, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Dumfries, John Dickson, Esq; late Provost of Dumfries; from the presbytery of Kirkcudbright, Mr John Scott at Tineholm, Mr Robert Mutter at Kirkcudbright, Mr John Johnston at Crossmichael, ministers, Mr Robert Ferguson in Milnmark, ruling elder; from the burgh of Kirkcudbright, Ephraim Lockhart of Barmagachin, Esq; from the presbytery of Wigton, Dr Isaac Davidson at Sorby, Mr John Dickson at Kirkowan, ministers; from the presbytery of Stranrawer, Mr John M'Kenzie at Portpatrick, Mr Henry Blair at Stonykirk, ministers,



ministers, Bailie James Dickson, Edinburgh, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Ayr, Mr John Dun at Auchinleck, Mr James Young at New Cumnock, Mr Alexander Moodie at Riccarton, Mr William Peebles at Newton upon Ayr, Mr Robert Duncan at Dundonald, ministers, Mr David Lees in Loch-hill, Mr William Hood, portioner of Torbolton, ruling elders ; from the presbytery of Irvine, Mr David M'Lellan at Beith, Mr John Fullarton at Dalry, Mr Michael Tod at Dreghorn, ministers, the Honourable Mr Patrick Boyle of Shewelton, ruling elder ; from the burgh of Irvine, Thomas Tweedie of Oliver, Esq; from the presbytery of Paisley, Mr John Monteith *senior* at Howston, Dr John Adam at Greenock, Mr John Forrest at Port-Glasgow, Mr John Finlay at Paisley, ministers, Bailie William Carlyle, Paisley, Mr John Hadaway, merchant, Leith, ruling elders ; from the presbytery of Hamilton, Mr Patrick Maxwell at East Monkland, Mr Alexander Hutchison at Hamilton, Mr John Bower at Old Monkland, ministers, Henry Stewart, Esq; of Allanton, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Lanerk, Mr William Miller at Crawfordjohn, Mr James Scott at Carlook, ministers, John Wharrie, Esq; of Lesmahago, ruling elder ; from the burgh of Lanerk, Alexander Wight, Esq; advocate ; from the presbytery of Glasgow, Mr Joseph Hodgefson at Carmunock, Mr Archibald Bonar at Glasgow, Mr William Dun at Kirkintulloch, Mr James Lapsley at Campsey, ministers, Professor John Anderson, Glasgow, Mr Robert Tennant, maltman in Glasgow, ruling elders ; from the University of Glasgow, Professor William Richardson ; from the burgh of Rutherglen, George White, Esq; of Bankhead ; from the presbytery of Dumbarton, Mr John Davidson at Old Kilpatrick, Mr David M'Gibbon at Buchanan, Mr Hugh Gourley at Balfron, ministers, Sir James Colquhoun of Lufs, Baronet, ruling elder ; from the burgh of Dumbarton, James Colquhoun, younger of Lufs, Esq; from the presbytery of Denoon, Mr Archibald M'Lea at Rothsay, Mr Charles Stewart at Strachur, ministers, John Lamont of Lamont, Esq; ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Kintyre, Mr Robert Thomson at Killian, Mr Alexander Hofack at Jura and Colonie, Mr John Smith at Campbelton, ministers, the Right Honourable Lord Henderland, ruling elder ; from the presbytery of Inveraray, Mr Hugh Campbell at Kilmartin, Mr Paul Fraser at Craignish, ministers, Mr Archibald Fletcher, writer to the signet, ruling elder ; from the burgh of Inveraray, Dr James Williamson ;

liamson; from the presbytery of Lorn, Mr Ludovick Grant at Ardchatton, Mr Patrick Campbell at Kilninver, ministers, Colonel Robert Campbell of Monzie, ruling elder; from the Presbytery of Mull, Mr Donald Skinner at Ardnamurchan, Mr Archibald M'Coll at Tiree, ministers, Allan M'Dougall of Gallanich, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dunkeld, Mr Thomas Bisset at Logierait, Mr Patrick M'Vean at Dull, Mr Thomas Fleming at Kenmore, Mr Patrick Stuart at Killin, ministers, Thomas Elder of Logie, Esq; Mr Alexander Miller, advocate, ruling elders; from the presbytery of Perth, Mr Alexander Duff at Tibbermuir, Mr William M'Lieish at Colace, Mr William Lang at Arngosk, Mr William Taylor at Rhynd, ministers, Sir John Belsches, Baronet, George Wright of Laton, Esq; ruling elders; from the presbytery of Stirling, Mr David Dickson at Bothkennar, Mr John Duncan at Alva, ministers, David Gowrley, Esq; of Kipdarroch, ruling elder; from the burgh of Stirling, Convener Alexander Cuthill; from the presbytery of Auchterarder, Mr Robert Mathie at Glendoven, Mr John Wright at Trinitygask, Mr William Graham at Fossaway, ministers, Bailie James Gentle, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dunblane, Mr Robert Stirling at Port, Mr Duncan Stewart at Balquhiddar, ministers, Captain John Graham of Douchry, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Dunfermline, Mr James Thomson at Dunfermline, Mr Alexander Daling at Cleish, Mr John Hoyes at Dalgety, ministers, Dr John Steedman, physician in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Dunfermline, Bailie William Hutton, merchant; from the burgh of Inverkeithing, Bailie John Eckford, merchant, Dunfermline; from the presbytery of Kirkcaldie, Mr George Willis at Leslie, Mr James Reid at Kinglassie, Mr James Wemyss at Burntisland, ministers, James Townsend-Oswald, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Cupar, Sir Robert Preston at Cupar, Mr Robert Wingate at Abdie, Mr George Campbell at Cupar, Mr James Lister at Auchtermuchty, ministers, John Balfour of Balbirnie, Esq; Mr James Lister of Pitlessie-mill, ruling elders; from the burgh of Cupar, Major John Melvill of Cairney; from the presbytery of St Andrews, Dr John Chalmers at Kilconquhar, Mr William Pairman at Ely, Mr James Forrester at Anstruther Wester, Mr Spence-Olyphant at Largo, ministers, Neil Ferguson, Esq; of Pitcullo, Mr Alexander Meldrum of Kincapple, ruling elders; from the burgh of St Andrews, Dr Andrew Duncan, physician, Edinburgh; from the University of St Andrews, Professor George Hill;  
from



from the Presbytery of Meigle, Dr James Playfair at Meigle, Mr Colin Symers at Alyth, Mr James Badinoch at Kingoldrum, ministers, Patrick Alifon of Newhall, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Forfar, Mr John Webster at Inverarity, Mr James Lyon at Glamis, ministers, Alexander Watson, Esq; younger of Turin, ruling elder; from the burgh of Forfar, the Right Honourable the Earl of Hyndford; from the presbytery of Dundee, Mr John Gibson at Mains, Mr Alexander Imlach at Muirhouse, Mr William Maul at Moneekie, ministers, Mr Charles Jobson, merchant in Dundee, ruling elder; from the burgh of Dundee, Bailie John Thoms; from the presbytery of Aberbrothick, Mr Alexander Mackie at Arbroath, Mr Alexander Girvan at Lunan, ministers, Mr Richard Lake, writer to the signet, ruling elder; from the burgh of Aberbrothick, Mr Thomas Duncan, writer in Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Brechin, Dr Charles Nisbet at Montrose, Mr James Wilson at Marytown, Mr John Waugh at Menmuir, ministers, Alexander Burnet, Esq; advocate, ruling elder; from the burgh of Montrose, Mr William Leslie, clerk to the signet; from the presbytery of Fordown, Mr David Forbes at Laurenskirk, Mr William Walker at Ecclefgreig, Mr Patrick Stewart at Kineff, ministers, Mr John Playfair, late minister of Liff, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Aberdeen, Mr John Brown at Newhills, Dr Duncan Shaw, Aberdeen, Mr Robert Dunbar at Old Machar, Mr William Stronach at New Machar, ministers, James Cunningham, Esq; of Hyndhope, George Strachan-Keith, Esq; ruling elders; from King's College, Dr Alexander Gerard; from the presbytery of Kincardine O' Neal, Mr Francis Downie at Banchory-terran, Mr John Ramsay at Strachan, Mr Robert Farquharson at Coldstone, ministers, William M'Donald of Rinneton, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Alford, Mr John Lumfden at Strathdon, Mr Robert Lumfden at Kildrummy, Mr Thomas Tait at Auchindore, ministers, John Gordon of Craig, Esq; ruling elder; from the presbytery of Ellon, Mr John Rose of Udney, Mr Alexander Cock at Cruden, ministers, Professor Thomas Gordon, Aberdeen, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Garioch, Mr Robert Gauld at Kilsamond, Mr Patrick Davidson at Rayne, Mr Alexander Duff at Monymusk, ministers, Alexander Leith, Esq; of Freefield, ruling elder; from the burgh of Kintore, John Clerk, *junior*, of Eldin, Esq; from the burgh of Inverury, John Clerk of Eldin, Esq; from

the presbytery of Deer, Mr James Johnston at Crimond, Mr John Craigie at St Fergus, Mr Basil Anderson at Old Deer, ministers, Mr John Taylor, clerk to the signet, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Turiff, Mr William Moir at Fyvie, Mr Alexander Rose at Auchterless, ministers, Mr Alexander Forbes, writer, Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the presbytery of Fordyce, Mr Andrew Skene at Banff, Mr James Dunbar at Boyndee, ministers, Mr John Robertson, writer in Edinburgh, ruling elder; from the burgh of Cullen, Mr John Russell, *junior*, writer to the signet; from the burgh of Banff, George Robinson of Gask, Esq; writer in Edinburgh; and the Assembly added thereto Dr James Macknight, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, in place of the Moderator; and all the members whose commissions had been rejected by the Assembly on account of informality, *viz.* from the burgh of Tain, Robert Chalmers, Esq; from the burgh of Kirkwall, Mr George Home, baker in Edinburgh; from the presbytery of Haddington, Mr Robert Scott at Haddington, Mr Andrew Nisbet at Garvat, Mr George Goldie at Atholstoneford, ministers, Charles Brown of Coalston, Esq; ruling elder; from the burgh of Jedburgh, Adam Ogilvie, Esq; advocate; from the burgh of Wigton, Bailie James Torry, merchant, Edinburgh; from the burgh of Ayr, George Fergusson, Esq; advocate; to be Commissioners of this General Assembly, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the said Commissioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the said Commissioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at Edinburgh, the first day after the dissolution of this Assembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the second Wednesday of August, third Wednesday of November, and the first Wednesday of March next to come, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with power to the said Commissioners to chuse their own Moderator: And likewise, the General Assembly fully empowers their said Commissioners, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see cause, in every matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Assembly; and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the instructions given, or to be given by this Assembly; and to advert to the interest of the Church on every occasion, that the Church, and present establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which



which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Provided always, that this general clause be not extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private processes be determined, except at the four stated diets; and what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission, with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved of by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the instructions given by the General Assembly in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventeen to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full force, as instructions to the Commissioners before named, and to be observed by them in all points, as if the same were specially here insert; and that they enquire into the publishing and spreading of books and pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith*; and that the recommenders of such books or pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the said Commission to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby empowered to receive any references and appeals that shall be made to them from Synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for the next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and assistance to Synods and Presbyteries, upon application to them for that end: Likewise to take care that the impressions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confession of Faith*, and *Catechisms*, and such books as are authorised by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worship, discipline, and government thereof, be correct; and give directions about printing the same. And the Commissioners are appointed and empowered to keep a correspondence with the Committee for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, for suppressing Popery and superstition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in these parts, and give assistance and concurrence therein; and, if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and speedy redress. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned: And,

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in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same; declaring, that, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And the General Assembly appoints the said Commissioners particularly to observe the acts of the General Assemblies one thousand seven hundred and twelve, and one thousand seven hundred and nineteen, respecting the application of the public money; which two acts are printed among the Acts of Assembly one thousand seven hundred and sixty-one. And this Commission is to continue and endure until another Commission be appointed; and members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission; and absents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th Act of the General Assembly held in the year one thousand seven hundred and six. And for the better securing of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the Presbytery of Edinburgh, or any other Presbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commission; and such of the members of these Presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required, all of them, to give attendance on the diets thereof; and the Presbyteries at a greater distance, who have four or more members on the Commission, are to take care, that at least two of them attend each diet of the same: And the General Assembly appoint their Commission, at their first meeting, to discuss as many of the causes and questions relative to the settlement of vacant Churches, which are or shall be referred to them by the Assembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any Presbytery or Synod of this Church shall decline to comply with the sentence of the Commission, or to give the same a full execution, in that case the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent meeting, as has been some time the practice, but shall allow the same to lie over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such Presbyteries or Synods shall be answerable for such their conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their Commissioners their reasons for the same. And that in passing their sentences, and in ordering the execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th Act

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of the Assembly one thousand seven hundred and thirty-six.

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## VII.

### Interim Act and Overture concerning Ordained Assistants.

*Edinburgh, May 29. 1784.*

THE General Assembly having considered the report of their Committee, appointed to take under their consideration the reference from the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, concerning ordained assistants ; are of opinion, That both the Minister of the parish, and his ordained assistant and successor, ought to be constituent members of the Kirk-Session ; that in the Presbytery and Synod, either of them who is present, may deliberate and vote ; that if both are present, these privileges belong to the Minister of the parish only ; and that either of them is capable of being elected a Member of the General Assembly, but not both of them in one year. And agreed to enact the same as an Interim Act, and to transmit it as an Overture for the consideration of Presbyteries.

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## VIII.

### Resolution concerning Marriages.

*Edinburgh, May 29. 1784.*

THE General Assembly do resolve, That no Session-clerk in this Church, proclaim any persons in order to marriage, until he give intimation to the Minister of the parish in a writing, dated and subscribed by him, of the names, designations, and places of residence of the parties

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parties to be proclaimed ; and obtain the said Minister's leave to make the said proclamation, with certification ; that if any certificate of proclamation of banns is given, without observing the above order, the said certificate shall be held as a false certificate ; and the Session-clerk who subscribes it, shall be censured accordingly ; and in case of a vacancy, the above intimation is to be made to two of the Elders of the parish ; and that this Resolution be printed in the Acts of this Assembly ; and appointed the clerks to transmit copies of this their Resolution to the several Presbyteries, to be by them transmitted to the Sessions of the parishes within their bounds, in order to its being observed.

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## IX.

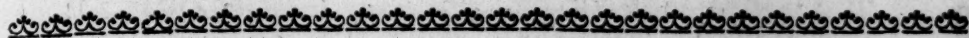
### Recommendation respecting Ordination to the Office of a Minister, without relation to a particular Charge.

*Edinburgh, May 31. 1784.*

THE Committee appointed to consider the Overture respecting ordination to the office of a Minister, without relation to a particular charge, reported as follow : Having carefully considered the said Overture, find that matter attended with so many difficulties, that they are not ripe to propose to the General Assembly any precise rules concerning it, fit for being enacted into standing laws ; and can only move, That the Assembly should, in the mean time, recommend it to Presbyteries to be cautious in granting ordination to such persons as have neither a fixed charge, nor a reasonable prospect of such provision as may enable them to support the ministerial character ; and that no Presbytery grant ordination to any person who has a near prospect of removing from the bounds of that Presbytery into another, from whom he may, in due time, receive ordination, if it shall by them be found necessary or proper. Which being considered by the General Assembly, they approved



approved thereof, and do recommend accordingly, and order this Recommendation to be printed in the Acts of this Assembly.

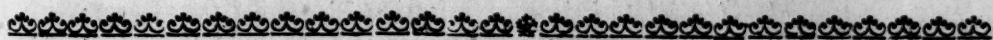


X.

A new Overture respecting the Ordination of Elders.

*Edinburgh, May 31. 1784.*

WHEREAS, great irregularities have crept into the Church, with respect to the ordination of Elders, the General Assembly overtures, That it be enacted, That no Minister should set apart any person to the office of Elder in his congregation, who has not a fixed residence in the parish, or who is not an heritor in the parish; it being the true meaning and intent of this Overture, to prevent Elders being ordained in congregations who are in nowise connected with them: And it being understood, that any city or town, where there are more congregations than one, shall be held as one parish, so far as respects the purpose of this Overture.



XI.

Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

THE next General Assembly of this National Church is appointed to be held within the New Church Ayle of Edinburgh, on Thursday the 19th day of May, in the year 1785.

*Collected and extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by*

JAMES MACKNIGHT, *Cl. Eccl. Scot.*

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# INDEX or ABRIDGMENT

## OF THE

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, held in the year 1784, which are not printed at full length.

May 20. 1784. *Sess. 1st.*

**A**FTER sermon by the Reverend Dr Henry Grieve, minister of the Gospel at Dalkeith, Moderator of the last General Assembly, the Ministers and Elders convened in the Assembly-house; and, after prayer by the said Dr Henry Grieve, the Assembly proceeded to the choice of a Moderator, when Dr Grieve proposed Dr John Drysdale, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, and Dr John M'Farlane, one of the ministers of Canongate, as candidates for the chair; and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried by a great majority, Dr Drysdale. The Assembly therefore made choice of the said Dr John Drysdale to be their Moderator; and he, at the Assembly's desire, took the chair. Against which election, several members protested, as illegal and unconstitutional.

The King's Commission to the Right Honourable David Earl of Leven, to represent his Majesty's Royal Person, read, and ordered to be recorded.

The King's most gracious Letter to the Assembly, read, and ordered to be recorded.

The Commissioner's speech at opening this Assembly, and the Moderator's speech in return thereto.

His Majesty's Royal warrant for L. 1000 Sterling, delivered to the Assembly by his Grace the Commissioner, read, and ordered to be recorded.

At request of Dr George Withart, one of the principal clerks of Assembly, the Assembly unanimously appointed Dr James Macknight, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, as assistant clerk, during all the diets of this Assembly, and the commissions thereof; and he took the oath *de fidei*.

I N D E X. 1784.

A Committee named for answering the King's most gracious Letter.

The same Committee named to draw up an Address to his Majesty, on the birth of a Princess, and the recovery of her Majesty from her late dangerous illness.

A Committee named for revising the commissions to the members of this Assembly, censuring absents from the diets thereof, naming ministers to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner, and receiving in lists of the probationers in the several presbyteries, in order to their being recorded.

A Committee for overtures named.

A Committee for bills, references and appeals named.  
Adjournment.

May 21. 1784. Sess. 2d.

Sederunt.

A diet spent in prayer.

New commissions produced.

Act VII. of Assembly 1718, for the better dispatch of the business of this Assembly, read, and the observation thereof enjoined.

Ministers named to preach before his Grace the Commissioner.

The Committee for overtures and bills appointed to meet this evening in their usual places.

Adjournment.

May 22. 1784. Sess. 3d.

Sederunt.

Reasons of protest against Dr Drysdale's election as Moderator of this Assembly, given in, and openly read, and ordered to lie *in retentis*. To which protestation several members adhered.

The report of the Committee for overtures called for, given in, and read.

The draught of an answer to the King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly, brought in and approved; and his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request, undertakes to transmit the same to his Majesty.

The draught of an Address to his Majesty on the birth of a Princess, and the recovery of her Majesty from her late dangerous illness, brought in, and approved; and his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's request,



request, undertakes to transmit the same to his Majesty.

The commission from the presbytery of Haddington rejected, because it wants the words, "*and appoint;*" and the Commissioners names ordered to be expunged from the roll.

The consideration of the objection to the commission from the presbytery of Ayr delayed.

The commission from the burgh of Jedburgh rejected, because there were not ten free days between the resolution and the day of election; and the Commissioner's name ordered to be expunged from the roll.

The commission from the burgh of Ayr rejected, because the minute of election is extracted by a person, who has not adjoined to his subscription the word *clerk*; and the Commissioner's name ordered to be expunged from the roll.

The commission from the burgh of Wigton rejected, because of various informalities in the commission; and the Commissioner's name ordered to be expunged from the roll.

The commission from the burgh of Kirkwall rejected, because therein the kirk-session is not designed, before which it was laid for attestation; and the Commissioner's name ordered to be expunged from the roll.

The commission from the burgh of Tain rejected, because the election was not made within the time limited by act of Assembly; and the Commissioner's name ordered to be expunged from the roll.

The consideration of the objection to the elder from the presbytery of North Isles delayed, till the gentleman appears to claim his seat in this Assembly.

The roll of causes transmitted by the Committee of bills, called for, produced and read.

Resolved to consider the petition for Mr Patrick Wodrow, anent the attestation of the commission from the presbytery of Ayr, first on Monday.

An appeal of Mr John Kennedy, minister of Terregles, against a sentence of the Synod of Dumfries, affirming several sentences of the presbytery of Dumfries, heard; the cause remitted to the presbytery of Dumfries, with an opinion, that their inserting Mr Kennedy's promise in their minutes was improper; and with instructions to the presbytery to strengthen Mr Kennedy's hands in the exercise of his ministry; and with an admonition

I N D E X. 1784.

tion to him to accommodate himself to the state of his parish.

A Committee named to revise the record of the actings and proceedings of the commission of the late General Assembly.

A Committee named to revise the record of the actings and proceedings of the Committee appointed by last Assembly, for managing the Royal Bounty for the Reformation of the Highlands and Islands.

A Committee named to audite the Procurator and Agent's accounts, consider the state of the public money, and prepare overtures about the same.

The Committee for overtures empowered to receive in from the several members any instructions given to them by their respective Synods or Presbyteries, class the matters therein contained, and prepare overtures thereupon to the Assembly; and receive in, and consider any accounts that shall be given them of the state of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery, and superstition; and prepare overtures for preventing or suppressing thereof.

The Committee for bills appointed to meet on Monday morning at ten o'clock.

Adjournment.

May 24. 1784. Sess. 4th.

Sederunt.

Report of the Committee for overtures produced and read.

A motion made, to consider to-morrow the overtures from the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, concerning Patronage, with reasons of dissent, and answers; and the overture from the Synod of Perth and Stirling, anent a repeal of the law of Patronage, and the revival of the Act 1690; which motion was objected to; and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried to-morrow. The General Assembly therefore agreed to consider these overtures to-morrow; and also, to consider the overtures from the Synods of Aberdeen and Angus and Mearns, at said diet, if there be time.

The Moderator appointed to name a Committee, to consider of the better ordering of the Assembly-house; and the names of said Committee to be read to-morrow.

Report



Report of the Committee for bills called for, produced and read.

A Committee named to consider the reference from the presbytery of Dumblane, relating to Norriston, to report at a future diet.

Resolve to take up the cause of Mr M'Intosh and the parish of Moy, as the first private cause on Wednesday.

Synod-books called for. The Synod-books of Glenelg, Merse and Teviotdale, and Angus and Mearns, produced, and Committees appointed to revise the same; none of the other Synod-books were brought up. Resolved, that the reasons for their not being brought up be enquired into.

Petition for Mr Patrick Wodrow, anent the attestation of the commission from the presbytery of Ayr heard. Found, that, in this case, there was no cause before the Assembly; and dismissed Mr Wodrow's complaint.

A Committee appointed to consider the reference from the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, concerning ordained assistants; to report to an after diet.

The petition for Mr Alexander Duff, anent a marriage, and the overture anent the *ministerium vagum*, referred to the same Committee.

The cause of Dalton delayed till Thursday, and the whole proof hitherto taken ordered to be printed.

The Committee for bills appointed to meet to-morrow morning at nine o'clock.

Adjournment.

May 25. 1784. Sess. 5th.

Sederunt.

A Committee named to consider the better ordering of the Assembly-house, in consequence of the appointment of the former diet of Assembly.

Report of the Committee for bills called for, produced and read.

Petition for Alexander Blair of St Thomas's-wells, referred to the Committee appointed to consider the reference from the Presbytery of Dumblane, anent the inhabitants of Norriston.

Agreeable to yesterday's resolution, the Assembly proceeded to consider the overtures from the Synods of Glasgow and Ayr, and Perth and Stirling, relating to the repeal of the law of Patronage, &c.; and after reasoning at great length, two motions were made, and seconded, 1<sup>st</sup>, To reject these overtures as inexpedient,

pedient, ill founded, and dangerous, to the peace and welfare of this Church: 2<sup>do</sup>, That whereas, former Assemblies of the Church have, in strong terms, declared the law of Patronage to be a grievance; and the annual instructions to the Commission of every Assembly bear, that the Commission are to embrace every favourable opportunity that may occur, to obtain relief from this grievance; and whereas, in many parts of Scotland, the rigorous exercise of this law has been felt, and complained of as productive of most unhappy consequences both to Church and State; from all which, some alteration of the present law appears to be requisite; yet, as different sentiments are entertained upon this subject; therefore, with a view that the minds of those chiefly interested may be known, That the General Assembly do recommend the consideration of this matter to Presbyteries, ordaining them to consult, in the most prudent and respectful manner, with the Noblemen and Gentlemen of landed property, with the Magistrates and Town-Councils of Burghs within their bounds, persons chiefly concerned upon the points specified in this motion; and after deliberation, transmit the opinions they have received to the next General Assembly, that it may be known, what the sentiments of the Gentlemen of landed interest, and their constituents, are; that thus the Assembly may be enabled to regulate their procedure, upon a subject so interesting to the public at large, and to this Church in particular, &c. It was proposed, that one state of the vote be *Reject*, or *Not*; another state also was proposed, *viz.* *Reject*, or *Consult*. After reasoning on the state of the vote, the Assembly agreed, that the state of the vote be, *Reject*, or *Not*, it being understood, that if it carries *Reject*, the overtures be rejected in terms of the first motion; against which state of the vote, Mr Bryce Johnston protested. The question being then put, it carried by a great majority, *Reject*. The Assembly, therefore, rejected these Overtures as inexpedient, ill founded, and dangerous to the peace and welfare of this Church; against which, several members dissented.

Agreed to take up the overtures from the Synods of Aberdeen, and Angus and Mearns, as the first business to-morrow.

A member gave intimation, that he meant, at a future diet of this Assembly, to move, That a clause in the instructions



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instructions to the Commission relative to Patronage be altered.

The Committees for revising the Commission-book, the Royal Bounty-book, and Synod-books, and the Committee for revising commissions appointed to meet to-morrow morning, between nine and ten; and the Committee on public accounts to-morrow evening at six o'clock.

Adjournment.

May 26. 1784. Sess. 6th.

Sederunt.

Several members adhered to the protest of yesterday against the state of the vote on the overtures, relating to the repeal of the law of Patronage, &c.

Several members also adhered to the dissent against the decision of yesterday concerning these overtures.

The commission from the burgh of Wick was read, and sustained.

Agreeable to a resolution of yesterday, the Assembly proceeded to consider the overtures from the Synods of Aberdeen, and of Angus and Mearns. Two motions were made and seconded; 1<sup>st</sup>, Do resolve, That it does not appear to this Assembly, that there is any reason for an innovation being made in the mode of settling vacant parishes; 2<sup>d</sup>, That the overtures be rejected without assigning any reason. After reasoning, the Assembly appointed the state of the vote to be, *Approve of the first motion*, or, *Reject the overtures*. The question being put, it carried *Approve*. The Assembly, therefore, approved of the first motion. Against which, several members dissented.

Upon a motion, agreed, That the article which requires the Commission to apply to Parliament at a convenient season for deliverance from the grievance of Patronage, be left out of the instructions to be given to the commission to be appointed by this Assembly.

Agreed to take up the cause of Moy first to-morrow, and thereafter the cause of Dalton, if there be time.

Adjournment.

May 27. 1784. Sess. 7th.

Sederunt.

Several members adhered to the dissent of yesterday, against the decision on the overtures from the Synods of Aberdeen, and Angus and Mearns.

Upon

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Upon a motion, agreed to take in the petition of Mr Daniel Rose, at this meeting, if there be time.

Reasons of dissent against the sentence passed on Tuesday last, rejecting the overtures from the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, and the Synod of Perth and Stirling, given in, and openly read, and ordered to lie *in retentis*.

The Committee on the reference concerning Norriston, appointed to meet to-morrow morning, at half an hour after eight, in John's Coffeehouse.

The Procurator, Agent, Clerks, and Printer's accounts produced, and ordered to lie on the table.

An appeal of Mr James M'Intosh, minister of Moy and Dalarossie, against a sentence of the Presbytery of Inverness, refusing him an exculpatory proof. After reasoning, the appeal rejected, because his reasons of appeal were not given in to the Presbytery within the days appointed by act of Assembly. Council were then heard on the merits of the cause; and after long reasoning, the Assembly waving the consideration of the sentences of the Synod of Moray, in respect that the additional proof taken by the Presbytery of Inverness, in consequence of the remit of last Assembly, was not before them; remit the whole cause to the Presbytery of Inverness, and appoint them to admit a proof of such relevant exculpatory facts and circumstances relating to the additional proof, as may be offered by Mr M'Intosh; and appoint him to give in a condescendence of these facts and circumstances to the Presbytery of Inverness, on or before the first day of August next; and appoint the said Presbytery to give judgment upon the whole proof, according to the laws of this Church; and, in the mean time, suspend Mr M'Intosh from the exercise of his ministry, till the final issue of this process, recommending to the Presbytery of Inverness to take care, that, during that time, the ordinances of religion be dispensed to these parishes.

Mr Daniel Rose not being present, the consideration of his complaint put off till a future diet.

A complaint of Mr James Lawson heard. The presbytery of Auchterarder ordered to allow Mr Lawson full extracts of every thing on their record, relating to this cause, so far as he shall demand, and attested copies of such papers as lie *in retentis*, if he shall demand them,  
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all on or before the 12th of August next: And dismissed the other articles of his complaint.

The Committee for overtures appointed to meet a quarter before eleven to-morrow, and the Committee for bills at half past nine.

Agreed to take in the cause of Dalton first to-morrow.  
Adjournment.

May 28. 1784. *Sess. 8th.*

Sederunt.

Reasons of protest against the state of the vote concerning the overtures from the Synods of Glasgow and Ayr, and of Perth and Stirling, which were considered on Tuesday last, given in, and openly read, and ordered to lie *in retentis*.

Report of the Committee for classing overtures; given in, and read.

After long reasoning on the overture concerning the ordination of Elders, a motion was made, That in regard some expressions in said overture are not sufficiently definite, a Committee be appointed to consider the same, and report to this Assembly on Monday. Another motion was made, That if this matter be put to a vote, the state of the vote shall be, *Transmit to Presbyteries*, or, *Appoint a Committee*. And the question being put, it carried *Appoint*. The Assembly, therefore, appointed a Committee to consider said overture, and report on Monday.

Report of the Committee for bills called for, produced and read.

Report of the Committee appointed to consider the Norriston affair, called for, produced and read. Approved, and the cause remitted to the Procurator and Agent, to be carried on at the public expence.

Report of the Committee appointed to consider the reference from the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr, &c.; ordered to lie on the table till to-morrow.

An appeal of Dr William Bryden, minister of the gospel at Dalton, against several references of the Synod of Dumfries. A petition for the Synod of Dumfries, and a petition for Robert Henderson of Cleugh-head, and others, prosecutors of Dr Bryden, heard. Dr Bryden withdrew his appeals. Thereafter, the Assembly proceeded to consider and judge of said references. The several articles considered one by one. As to the 1<sup>st</sup>, The propriety of putting Ann Dalziel on oath. A-

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greed without a vote, not to put Ann Dalziel on oath. 2d, As to the admissibility of Agnes Carruthers, as a witness in this cause, on account of her being aunt to one of the pursuers, and aunt-in-law to another. Allowed her to be examined as a witness *cum nota*. 3d, And as to the admissibility of Janet Gordon as a witness. Allowed her to be examined as a witness *cum nota*. The other points in this cause delayed till to-morrow.

Adjournment.

May 29. 1784. Sess. 9th.

Sederunt.

The report of the trustees of the widow's fund called for, Dr Andrew Hunter, Preses of the last meeting of trustees, delivered to the Assembly several printed copies of the Trustees report, containing an account of their proceedings since last Assembly, and a state of the fund under their management; and informed the Assembly, That since the death of the late Dr Webster, General Collector of the Ministers Widows Fund, the Trustees had unanimously elected Dr James Macknight one of the ministers of Edinburgh, and Sir Harry Moncrieff-Welwood, one of the ministers of St Cuthberts, to execute the office of General Collector, or Receiver of said fund; and requested the Assembly to approve and confirm the said election. The General Assembly having heard and considered this part of the Trustees report, did unanimously approve and confirm the said Trustees election of Dr James Macknight, and of Sir Harry Moncrieff-Welwood, to execute the office of General Collector, or Receiver, of the fund established for a provision to Ministers widows, &c.; and appointed the Trustees report to lie on the table till Monday.

Act approving of the account of Mr William Robertson, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and exonerating and discharging Mr Robertson of the sum disbursed by him; and appointing, that he debit himself in his next account, with the sum of L. 30 : 16 : 9 $\frac{2}{2}$  Sterling, being the balance due by him.

Act approving of the account of Mr George Cairncross, Agent for the Church, and exonerating and discharging Mr Cairncross of the sum disbursed by him; and appointing, that he debit himself in his next account, with the sum of L. 3 : 7 : 4 Sterling, being the balance due



due by him. And further appointing, that the newspapers be continued as an article in the Agent's annual account.

The report of the Visitors of the Commission-record given in, and read, and the Commission's conduct approved. The Assembly's thanks given from the Chair to the Moderator of the Commission, for their faithfulness and diligence in the affairs committed to them, and the record ordered to be attested.

The report of the Committee for naming the members of the Commission of this Assembly, and preparing instructions for them, given in, and approved of.

The former appointment of a collection for defraying the expence of translating, &c. the Bible into the Gaelic language, renewed on those parishes who have neglected to make said collection.

The Synod-book of Angus and Mearns ordered to be attested.

Synod-books not produced, ordered to be brought up to next Assembly.

The Committee on the Enzie fund renewed. The transaction with the Duke of Gordon ratified; and the Committee authorised to order the building of a proper church, &c.

Report of the Committee appointed to consider the overture anent ordained assistants called for, given in, and read. Agreed to turn that report into an interim act, and to transmit it as an overture for the consideration of presbyteries.—*Vide* printed Acts.

Report of the Committee appointed to consider the petition and complaint of the presbytery of Perth, respecting the conduct of the clerk of the kirk-session of Edinburgh called for, given in, and read. Agreed to appoint the Procurator for the Church to enquire into the circumstances of the particular case which was under the consideration of the Committee; and if he finds them such as to warrant a prosecution against the session-clerk of Edinburgh, that he be authorised to carry on a process before the competent courts against the said session-clerk, at the public expence. Further resolutions agreed to with respect to marriages, to be transmitted to presbyteries, and by them transmitted to the sessions of the parishes within their bounds.—*Vide* printed Acts.

The Committee on the overture respecting the ordination to the office of a minister, without relation to a particular

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particular charge, appointed to meet at half past nine on Monday morning.

The Committee on the better ordering the Assembly-house, to meet at ten o'clock on Monday morning.

Report of the Committee on new erections to be called for on Monday.

Proceeded to consider the remaining points in the cause of Dalton. Mr Henderson's appeal from the sentence of the presbytery of Lochmaben, refusing some of the libellers to withdraw their names from the libel, withdrawn. The sentence of the Synod of Dumfries, refusing decision on the whole cause in the present state of the process, affirmed. The proof on the part of the pursuers declared not concluded, with the admission and examination of the witnesses whose admissibility has been already determined. The Assembly then proceeded to consider Mr Henderson's appeal from the sentence of the presbytery of Lochmaben, refusing to read the minutes of presbytery of the 6th of April, on the 6th of May; and after reasoning, found, That in respect the pursuers did not appear before the presbytery on the 6th of April, and appeal against the sentence then pronounced, the pursuers were not entitled on the 6th of May to enter such an appeal; and that the presbytery of Lochmaben did right in refusing on the 6th of May to read the minute of the 6th of April: Therefore, affirmed the sentence of the presbytery of the 6th of May, and dismissed the appeal: Reserving to the pursuers to apply to the presbytery for an act and commission for examining witnesses in England and Ireland, as they should see cause.

Agreed to take in the cause of Cathcart first on Monday.

The complaint of Mr Daniel Rose, minister of Dingwall, complaining of the Synod of Ross, for allowing the presbytery of Tain to take Mr James Dallas on trials, in order to his being licensed a probationer of this Church, heard. The sentence of the Synod reversed; and the presbytery of Tain, or any other presbytery of this Church, discharged to take the said Mr James Dallas on trials, until he produce certificates of his having either given close attendance on the Divinity Hall for the space of four years, or certificates of his having continued to prosecute the study of Divinity for six years, in terms of the Act of Assembly 1782.

Agreed,



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Agreed, after the cause of Cathcart, to take up the cause of Melrose on Monday, and after that Mr Fortune's cause, if there be time.

Adjournment.

May 31. 1784. *Sess. ult.*

Sederunt.

Reasons of dissent against the decision on the overtures from the Synods of Aberdeen, and Angus and Mearns, given in, and openly read, and ordered to lie *in re-tentis*.

The report of the Trustees for managing the fund for a provision to minister's widows, &c. containing a state of the fund under their management, and an account of their proceedings since last Assembly, again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the separate register for that purpose.

The report of the Visitors of the Royal Bounty-record, called for; the conduct of the Managers approved of, and their book ordered to be attested.

Committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, with a commission and instructions to them.

The Synod-book of Merse and Teviotdale ordered to be attested.

The report of the Committee for the better ordering of the Assembly-house was given in, read, and approved of.

The report of the Committee appointed to consider the overture concerning the ordination of ministers without a particular charge, called for, given in, and read, approved of, and ordered to be printed among the Acts of Assembly. *Vide Printed Acts.*

The new overture anent the ordination of elders, called for, given in, and read; appointed to be transmitted to Presbyteries for their consideration. *Vide Printed Acts.*

The report of the Committee for erecting new parishes in the Highlands and Islands, read; and a new Committee appointed to attend to this important affair.

The report of the Committee on the window and house-tax given in, and read, and Committee continued; thanks ordered to the Right Honourable Mr Dundas, and Mr Ludovick Grant, *junior*, for their good offices in this affair.

The Procurator authorised to pay L. 20 Sterling to the representatives of Mr Robert Lumfden of Auchendore,

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dore, for which he had formerly been ranked as a creditor on the public funds.

The account of stationary-ware due by the clerks to John and Elphinston Balfours ordered to be paid.

The account of Mr James Dickson, Printer for the Church, ordered to be paid.

On a motion, recommended to the Committee on the Royal Bounty, in respect of the particular circumstances of the united parishes of Moy and Dalarossie, and the state of the country, to give what assistance is in their power to the Presbytery of Inverness, for having the ordinances of religion dispensed to the people of these parishes, till the meeting of next Assembly.

An appeal at the instance of Colin Rae, Esq; of Little Govan, patron of the parish of Cathcart, and others, against a sentence of the Presbytery of Glasgow, refusing to sustain a call in favour of Mr Robert Buchanan at Lesmahago, to the parish of Cathcart, heard; the sentence of the Presbytery reversed, and the call sustained, and the Presbytery of Glasgow appointed to proceed in a process of transportation of Mr Buchanan, from Lesmahago to Cathcart, with all convenient speed, according to the rules of the Church.

The overture from the Synod of Perth and Stirling, concerning the parochial schoolmasters of Scotland, read. The Assembly declare, That the parochial schoolmasters are a body of men who have been highly useful in diffusing knowledge and learning among the people of Scotland; and that, in the opinion of this Assembly, their present provision for maintenance is generally too small, and therefore that they deserve farther encouragement from the public.

The cause of Melrose, and Mr Fortune's cause, and all other causes before this Assembly, and not determined by them, and causes remitted by former Assemblies, and not determined, referred to the Commission, with power to them to judge and finally determine therein.

List of probationers produced, and ordered to be recorded.

Protestations admitted.

A Committee named to revise the minutes of the Assemblies proceedings, at this and all the other diets thereof, and to pitch upon such of the acts of Assembly as are to be standing rules, in order to their being printed.



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The minutes of this federunt were read ; the minutes of former federunts being read at the diets subsequent thereto.

The Moderator's speech to the General Assembly and his Majesty's Commissioner.

The Lord Commissioner's speech to the Assembly.

Act appointing next General Assembly of this Church to meet on May 19. 1785.

The Assembly concluded with prayer, singing a psalm, and pronouncing the blessing.

